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E.O. 12958:N/A

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SUBJECT: THAILAND NOT PLANNING TO SEND WTO SERVICES DELEGATION

REF: STATE 18380

¶1. The Embassy delivered the letter from USTR Ambassador Schwab to Minister of Commerce Mingkwan's office on February 26 per instructions in reftel. In addition, Econ Counselor subsequently spoke to Ms. Chutima Bunyaphrasara, Director General of Thailand's Department of Trade Negotiations, to emphasize our desire for bilateral WTO services negotiations in Geneva. Chutima, who is away from her office at an executive training course this week, said it would be difficult to get a team together to meet bilaterally with the U.S. in Geneva by March 10, and at this point did not plan to do so. Chutima added that Thailand had already provided its offer on services, but would take our points under consideration.

¶2. The Embassy will continue to press the Ministry to send a team to Geneva, but at this point it is not clear that will happen.

JOHN